

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3 – 30 are pending in this application with claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 being amended by this response.

1. (currently amended) A method of automatic cash accounting for use in a hospital, comprising the activities of:

receiving, via a message processor, first message data including a first income amount total value, representing cash income received during a first time period, and an associated first income source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said hospital providing said associated first income amount total value;

receiving, via said message processor, second message data identifying medical insurance reimbursement income amounts received for services rendered to multiple patients during said first time period; and

automatically processing, via a data processor, said first and second received message data by,

identifying an income account associated with said one of said departments based on said first income source identifier, and for updating said identified income account with said first income amount total value to indicate said first income amount total value received by said identified income account during said first time period,

collating and combining data representing total values from a plurality of income accounts to provide a first income amount cumulative total value representing combined cash income total value for all of said departments during said first time period and

combining said reimbursement income amounts with said cash total value for said departments during said first time period to provide a total amount, and

creating a financial statement record using said total amount during said first time period.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the activities of

deriving at least one of said first and second received message data from a processing device associating a user selected income source identifier with said first income amount total value; and

providing cash register functions at said processing device

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the second message data received in said activity of receiving second message data includes a medical insurance reimbursement income amount value for services rendered to a particular patient and an associated patient identifier, and wherein said activity of automatically processing, further comprises the activity of,

identifying an income account associated with said patient based on said patient identifier, and updates said identified patient income account to reflect said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received and

creating said financial statement record using said combined cash income total value and data derived from said patient income account.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said the first received message data identifies a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during said first time period and associated with a hospital department, and said first income amount total value comprises a total transaction income amount value for said first time period.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein a transaction income amount value comprises a disbursement comprising a negative income amount value.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein
at least one of said first and second received message data comprises a file
and

an individual cash transaction comprises an electronic funds transfer.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein
the second message data received during said activity of receiving second
message data identifies an individual message data item includes a medical insurance
reimbursement income amount value and an associated patient identifier, and wherein
said activity of automatically processing said received message data
includes identifying an income account associated with said one of said patients based on
said patient identifier, and updates said identified income account to indicate said medical
insurance reimbursement income amount value received and, wherein
said activity of creating said financial statement record includes using said
combined cash income total value and data derived from said patient income account.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein
said first received message data identifies a plurality of individual cash
transactions performed during said first time period and associated with a hospital
department, and said first income amount total value comprises a transaction income
amount value, and

said activity of automatically processing includes accumulating a plurality
of individual cash transaction income amount values for transactions performed during
said first time period for said hospital department to provide a cumulative total value for
said first time period.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein
said source identifier incorporates an account number identifying said
income account associated with said one of said departments.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said activity of automatically processing includes data processor updates an account for the overall hospital in response to said first income amount total value representing combined cash income for said departments for said first time period.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein said activity of automatically processing further includes updating an account for a plurality of hospitals including said hospital in response to said first income amount total value representing combined cash income for said departments for said first time period.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said financial statement record identifies at least one of, (a) a total income received by individual departments of said plurality of departments during said first time period, (b) total income received by individual departments of said plurality of departments during said first time period deposited in a bank, and (c) individual cash transactions performed during said first time period by individual hospital departments.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said first time period comprises at least one of: (i) a day, (ii) a week, (iii) a month, and (iv) a year, and

said plurality of departments internal to said hospital include at least two of, (a) a cafeteria, (b) a garage, (c) a shop, (d) a pharmacy, (e) a café or restaurant, (f) cashiers office, (g) a clinical department, (h) an outpatient department, (i) an inpatient department, (j) an imaging department, and (k) a laboratory.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of automatic cash accounting for use in a healthcare enterprise, comprising the activities of:

receiving, via a message processor, a plurality of messages corresponding to a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during a first time period and associated with a hospital department, and an individual message includes a transaction

income amount total value and an associated first source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said hospital providing said associated transaction income amount value and a medical insurance reimbursement income amount value for services rendered to a particular patient and an associated patient identifier;

processing, via a data processor, said received plurality of messages for,

identifying an income account associated with said one of said departments based on said first income source identifier, and for updating said identified income account to indicate said transaction income amount total value received during said first period,

identifying an income account associated with said patient based on said patient identifier, and updating said identified patient income account to reflect said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received

accumulating a plurality of individual cash transaction income amount total values for transactions performed during said first time period for said hospital department to provide a cumulative total value for said first time period,

collating and combining cumulative total values associated with a corresponding plurality of departments to provide a first income amount total value representing combined cash income for said departments during said first time period and

creating a financial statement record using said combined cash income total value for said departments during said first time period and data derived from said patient income amount.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein
said received plurality of messages comprise a file, and said individual message is conveyed within said file

17. (Previously Presented) A method of cash accounting for use in a hospital, comprising the activities of:

via a message processor,

receiving first message data including a first income amount total value determining income received during a first time period and an associated first

source identifier, said first source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said hospital providing said associated first income amount total value, and

receiving second message data including a second income amount total value determining income received during said first time period and an associated second source identifier, said second source identifier identifying one of a plurality of organizations external to said hospital providing said associated second income amount total value, wherein said second message data identifies medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients; and

collating and combining, via a data processor, a plurality of first income amount total values from a corresponding plurality of departments to provide a first income amount cumulative total value representing combined cash income for said departments for said first time period, and for collating and combining a plurality of second income amount total values from a corresponding plurality of organizations to provide a second income amount cumulative total value representing combined cash income from said organizations for said first time period and

creating a financial statement record using said cumulative total value representing combined cash income for said departments and said second income amount cumulative total value for said first time period.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein
said first time period comprises at least one of, (i) a day, (ii) a week, (iii) a month and (iv) a year, and

said plurality of departments internal to said hospital include at least two of, (a) a cafeteria, (b) a garage, (c) a shop, (d) a pharmacy, (e) a café or restaurant, (f) cashiers office, (g) a clinical department, (h) an outpatient department, (i) an inpatient department.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein
further comprising combining said cumulative total value representing combined cash income for said departments and said second income amount cumulative

total value for said first time period to derive a value representing combined cash income for said hospital during said first time period.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said plurality of organizations external to said hospital include at least two organizations of, (a) a health maintenance organization (HMO), (b) an insurance company, (c) a patient, (d) a debt collection agency, (e) another healthcare provider enterprise.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said first message data including said first income amount total value is received from at least one of, (a) a cash register, and (b) a processing device with cash register functions.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein an individual message data item includes a medical insurance reimbursement income amount value and an associated patient identifier, and further comprising identifying an income account associated with said one of said patients based on said patient identifier, and updates said identified income account to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received and creating said financial statement record using data derived from said patient income account.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said message data identifies a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during a first time period and associated with a hospital department, and said first income amount total value comprises a total transaction income amount value during said first time period.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein a transaction income amount value comprises a disbursement comprising a negative income amount value.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said received message data comprises a file.

26. (Previously Presented) A method for an automatic cash accounting system for use in a healthcare enterprise, comprising the activities of:

receiving, via a message processor, message data including a first income amount total value determining income received during a first time period and an associated first source identifier, said first source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said hospital providing said associated first income amount total value, said message data also indicating a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during said first time period and associated with multiple patients, and an individual message data item includes a transaction income amount value and an associated transaction income source identifier, said transaction income source identifier identifying one of a plurality of patients providing said associated transaction income amount value;

identifying, via a data processor, an income account associated with said one of said patients based on said transaction income source identifier, and for updating said identified income account to indicate said transaction income amount value received by said identified income account during said first time period and creating a financial statement record using said hospital department first income amount total value and said transaction income amount value for said first time period.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein said received message data comprises a file.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26,further comprising the activities of receiving second message data identifying medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients for services rendered to said multiple patients in said first time period and

identifying income accounts associated with said multiple patients based on said associated patient identifiers, and updating said identified income accounts to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28,

further comprising combining said hospital department first income amount total value and said transaction income amount value and said medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients in creating said financial statement record.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the activities of

receiving second message data identifying a single medical insurance reimbursement income amount for multiple patients, and identifying a source organization of said reimbursement income amount, and

identifying an organization income account associated with said source organization, and updating said organization income account to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received.